

Forage Planting Guide for North Carolina

Crop	Seeding Rate (lb./acre) B:broadcast D:drill(4-to 9" row) R:row (30+inches) PLS:pure live seeds	Plant Depth (inches)	Mountains (above 2500 ft. elevation)* See footnote for below 2500 ft.		Piedmont and Tidewater		Coastal Plain**	
			Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates
PERENNIAL GRASSES								
Bahiagrass	B:15-25;D:10-20	¼ - ½	Not adapted		Not well adapted		Feb 15-Mar 15	Feb 1-Mar 31
Bermudagrass (Hybrid) Sprigs - bu. = 1.25 ft. ³	B:25-40; R:5-15 bushels	1 - 3	Not adapted		Mar 1-Mar 31	Feb 15-May 1 or thru Jul if irrigated	Mar 1-Mar 31	Feb 15-Apr 15 or thru Jul if irrigated
Bermudagrass, Seeds (Common & Cultivars)	B:6-8; D:5-7	¼ - ½	Not well adapted	May 1-Jun 15	Apr 15-May 15	Apr 1-Jun 15	Apr 1-May 15	Mar 15-Jun 7
Big Bluestem	D:8-10 PLS; B:10-12 PLS	½ - ¾	May 15-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Bluegrass	B:10-15; D:8-12	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 25	Not well adapted		Not well adapted	
Caucasian Bluestem	D:2 PLS; B:4 PLS	¼ - ½	May 15-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Dallisgrass	B:20-30; D:15-20	¼ - ½	Not adapted		Not well adapted		Mar 1-Mar 30	Feb 15-Apr 15
Eastern Gamagrass	D:10-15 PLS; B: Do not broadcast	¾ - 1.5	May 15-Jun 15 Nov-Feb	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1 Nov-Jan	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15 Nov-Jan	Apr 10-Jun 30
Flaccidgrass	D:2-4; Sprig: 3/ft in 18"rows Tillers: 2-4/ft	¼ - ½ 2 - 3 Root cover	Jun 1-Jun 15 Mar 1-Apr 7 May 15-Jun 15	May 15-Jul 1 Feb 15-Apr 15 May 1-Jul 15	May 15- Jul 7 Feb 20-Mar 20 Apr 25-Jun 1	Apr 15-Jul 1 Feb 1-Mar 30 Apr 15-Jul 15	May 7-Jun 1 Feb 15-Mar 15 Apr 25-May 20	Apr 15-Jun 15 Feb 1-Mar 30 Apr 15-Jul 10
Indiangrass	D:8-10 PLS; B:10-12 PLS	½ - ¾	May 15-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 10-Jun 1	May 1-Jun 30	Apr 20-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Orchardgrass	B:12-15; D:8-12	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 31	Not well adapted	
Redtop	D: 2-4; B: 3-6	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	Sep 1-Oct 31 Feb 15-Mar 20
Reed Canarygrass	B:5-10; D:4-8	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Mar 1-Mar 31	Not well adapted	
Rescuegrass also called Prairiegrass	D:20-25; B:25-35	½ - ¾	Aug 20-Sep 7 Mar 15-Mar 30	Aug 15-Oct 1 Mar 1-Apr 30	Sep 1-Sep 15 Mar 1-Mar 30	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Apr 30	Sep 1-Sep 30	Aug 25-Oct 25
Smooth Bromegrass	B:10-20; D:8-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Not well adapted		Not adapted	
Switchgrass	D:6-10 PLS B:8-12 PLS	½ - ¾	May 15-Jun 15	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-Jun 1	Apr 1-Jun 30	Apr 10-May 15	Apr 10-Jun 30
Tall Fescue	B:15-20; D:10-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	Sep 1-Oct 31 Feb 15-Mar 20
Timothy	B:10-12; D:8-10	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Not well adapted		Not adapted	
MIXTURES								
Orchardgrass + Alfalfa	B:5 + 20; D:3 + 15	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15	Not well adapted	
Orchardgrass + Ladino Clover	B:12 + 4; D:9 + 3	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Not well adapted	
Orchardgrass + Red Clover	B:12 + 4; D:8 + 3	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Not adapted	
Tall Fescue + Ladino Clover	B:10 + 4; D:8 + 3	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30 heavy soils only	Sep 1-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20
Tall Fescue + Red Clover	B:10 + 8; D:8 + 6	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30 heavy soils only	Sep 1-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20
ANNUAL GRASSES								
Crabgrass	B:8-10; D: 5-7	¼ - ½	May 15-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Barley	B:140; D:100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Not well adapted	
Millet, Pearl (Cattail)	B:20-25; D:15-20; R:6-10	½ - 1 ½	May 15-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Millet, German, Foxtail, Japanese	D:10-15; R:5-7	½ - 1 ½	May 15-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 31	May 1-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Oats	B:130; D:100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Sep 30	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1-Nov 15
Rye	B:120; D:100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1-Nov 15

Crop	Seeding Rate (lb./acre) B: broadcast D: drill (4-9" row) R: row (30+ inches) PLS: pure live seeds	Plant Depth (inches)	Mountains (above 2,500 ft.elevation) *See footnote for below 2,500 ft.		Piedmont and Tidewater**		Coastal Plain**	
			Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates	Best Dates	Possible Dates
Ryegrass	B:30-40; D:20-30	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 31	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	Sep 1-Oct 31
Sorghum-Sudan	B:35-40; D:20-30; R:15-20	½ - 1	May 15-May 31	May 1 -Jun 30	May 1 -May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Sorghum, Forage (Silage)	R:4-6	1 - 1 ½	May 15-May 31	May 1 -Jun 30	May 1 -May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Sudangrass	B:30-40; D:20-25	1 - 2	May 15-May 31	May 1 -Jun 30	May 1 -May 31	Apr 25-Jun 30	May 1-May 15	Apr 20-Jun 30
Triticale	B: 120; D: 100	1 - 2	Aug 1-Aug 20	Aug 1-Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1-Nov 15
Wheat	B: 120; D: 100	1 - 2	Aug 1 -Aug 20	Aug 1 -Oct 10	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 20-Oct 31	Sep 5-Sep 30	Sep 1 -Nov 15
Small Grain Mix (2 Grains)	Reduce each selection by 50%	1 - 2	See dates for smallgrains		See dates for smallgrains		See dates for smallgrains	
Smallgrain mixed with annual ryegrass	Reduce Smallgrain 25% & ryegrass 50%	½ - 1	See dates for grains and ryegrass		See dates for grains and ryegrass		See dates for	grains and ryegrass
PERENNIAL LEGUMES								
Alfalfa	B:20-25; D:15-20	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 1 -Apr 7	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Mar 1 -Mar 31	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Alfalfa (sod seeding into grass)	D: 15-20	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 [†] Sep 15-Oct 1 [†]	Jul 25-Oct 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 [†] Oct 10-Oct 20 [†]	Aug 25-Oct 20	Sep 1-Sep 30 Oct 10-Oct 20 [†]	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Birdsfoot Trefoil	B:8-10; D:6-8	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 30	Not well adapted		Not adapted	
Crownvetch (For erosion control)	B:15-20; D:10-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 Mar 1-Mar 30	Aug 15-Oct 25 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Not well adapted	
Ladino or White Clover	B:5; D:3-5	¼	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 20-Apr 20	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Mar 1 -Mar 31	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20
Ladino (For sod seeding into grass)	B:5; D:3-5	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 [†] Aug 1 -Sep 1 [†] Mar 1 -Mar 20	Aug 1 -Sep 15 Mar 1 -May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 [†] Oct 7-Oct 15 [†] Feb 20-Mar 10	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20	Sep 1 -Sep 30 [†] Oct 7-Oct 15 [†] Feb 15-Feb 28	Sep 1 -Oct 31 Feb 10-Mar 15
Red Clover	B:10-15; D:8-10	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 30	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 15 Feb 15-Mar 20
Red Clover (For sod seeding into grass)	B:10-15; D:8-1 0	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 [†] Aug 1 -Sep 1 [†] Mar 1 -Mar 20	Aug 1 -Sep 15 Mar 1-May 15	Aug 25-Sep 15 [†] Oct 7-Oct 15 [†] Feb 20-Mar 10	Aug 25-Oct 25 Feb 15-Mar 20	Sep 1 -Sep 30 [†] Oct 7-Oct 15 [†] Feb 15-Feb 28	Sep 1 -Oct 31 Feb 10-Mar 15
Sericea Lespedeza (Dehulled)	B:20-40; D:15-30	¼ - ½	Mar 15-Apr 15	Mar 1 -Apr 30	Mar 1 -Mar 20	Feb 15-Apr 30	Mar 1 -Mar 20	Feb 15-Apr 30
Sweetclover	B:20-30; D:10-15	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10 Mar 1 -Apr 7	Jul 15-Aug 20 Mar 1 -Apr 15	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 15 Mar 1 -Mar 31	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 31
ANNUAL LEGUMES								
Crimson Clover	B:20-25; D:15-20	¼ - ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 20	Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 25-Oct 25	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 30
Crimson Clover; Mix with ryegrass or smallgrain	B:20; D:15 & reduce smallgrain by 1/3	¼ - ½	Same as Crimson clover		Same as Crimson clover		Same as Crimson clover	
Lespedeza, Kobe	B:30-40; D:20-25	¼ - ½	Not well adapted		Feb 10-Feb 28	Feb 1 -Mar 30	Feb 1 -Feb 20	Feb 1-Mar 20
Lespedeza, Korean	B:20-30; D: 15-20	¼ - ½	Mar 15-Mar 31	Mar 1-Apr 15	Feb 10-Feb 28	Feb 1 -Mar 30	Not well adapted	
Subterranean clover	B:10-20; D:8-15	¼ - ½	Not well adapted		Aug 25-Sep 15	Aug 15-Oct 25	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 31
Vetch (Common, Hairy)	B:25-40; D:20-30 B:20-30; D: 15-20	½ - 1 ½	Jul 25-Aug 10	Jul 15-Aug 30	Aug 25-Sep 30	Aug 25-Oct 25	Sep 1 -Sep 30	Sep 1 -Oct 25
OTHER SPECIES								
Rape and Turnips	B:6-8; D:3-4	¼ - ½	Mar 1 -Apr 30 Jul 15-Sep 1	Feb 15-May 10 Jul 1-Sep 15	Feb 15-Mar 15 Aug 15-Sep 15	Feb 1 -Apr 15 Aug 1-Oct 1	Feb 15-Mar 1 Sep 1-Oct 1	Feb 1 -Apr 1 Aug 15-Oct 30

* May extend the fall dates by 20 days, where elevation is below 2,500 feet, and seed 15 days earlier in spring.

** For the black, heavy-textured soils in the tidewater region use dates for the piedmont.

[†] The best time to sod seed depends on the prevalence of insects in late August and early September and the drought prediction for September. If insects are not evident and moisture is adequate, plant on the early dates.

Alfalfa can be successfully seeded into a sod in mid- to late winter (same as ladino) provided that the grass sod is killed the previous fall (in October or November